

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 L-03 SP-02 /019 W

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R 050630Z SEP 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4371

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS CH (CHANG, Y.L.)

SUBJECT: CHINESE COMPLAINT ABOUT FORM FS-257A

REF: A. PEKING 1457; B. PEKING 1432; C. STATE 204088

1. ACTING CONSULAR OFFICER PERITO CALLED ON MFA CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION CHIEF CHANG JUI SEPT 4 TO RESPOND TO CHINESE COMPLAINT ABOUT FORM FS-257A. PER PARA 2 REFTEL C, PERITO STATED THAT: A) FORM ADDRESSED TO MR. AND MRS. CHANG CHIN-SHIH HAD BEEN SENT OUT AS RESULT OF MISTAKE BY USLO; B) USG UNDERSTOOD CHINESE GOVERNMENT OBJECTIONS TO USE OF THAT FORM; C) THEREFORE, USLO WOULD NOT USE FORM AGAIN IN CHINA. PERITO THEN INFORMED CHANG JUI THAT USLO PLANNED TO RENEW INVITATION TO MR. AND MRS. CHANG TO VISIT USLO TO COMPLETE APPLICATION PROCESS.

2. IN SERIES OF QUESTIONS IN WHICH HE STRESSED "INSULTING" AND "MISTAKEN" LANGUAGE OF FORM 257A, CHANG JUI THEN SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT, IN ADDITION TO NOT USING FORM 257A IN CASE OF MR. AND MRS. CHANG, "LANGUAGE INSULTING TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY" WOULD NOT APPEAR IN ANY FORM WHICH USLO MIGHT USE FOR CINESE VISA APPLICANTS. USLO OFFICER GAVE THIS ASSURANCE.

3. IN COURSE OF THIS EXCHANGE, CHANG JUI STATED THAT ONLY IF THE US SIDE "CORRECTED ITS WRONG
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PRACTICE AND GUARANTEED AGAINST SUCH INCIDENTS IN

THE FUTURE" COULD MR. AND MRS. CHANG PROCEED WITH VISA APPLICATIONS. HE NOTED THAT USLO PLANNED TO HAVE MR. AND MRS. CHANG FILL OUT NEW FORM AT USLO; THEREFORE, MFA COULD NOT BE CLEAR ABOUT FORM'S CONTENT, AND ONLY AFTER MFA HAD CHANCE TO STUDY FORM WOULD IT BE ABLE TO MAKE JUDGMENT. CHANG SAID THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO SUBMIT THE NEW FORM TO MFA WAS, HOWEVER, UP TO THE AMERICAN SIDE.

4. THE ONLY CLEAR RESULT OF THIS USLO APPROACH TO MFA WAS CHANG JUI'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD REPORT USLO'S REPLY TO HIS SUPERIORS.

5. COMMENT: CHANG JUI'S STATEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT MR. AND MRS. CHANG'S CONTINUING THE VISA APPLICATION PROCESS WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON MFA'S PRIOR APPROVAL OF NEW FORM. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT SO INTERPRET IT (PARTICULARLY SINCE HE STOPPED SHORT OF THIS). WE THEREFORE ARE INVITING MR. AND MRS. CHANG, THROUGH CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE, TO COME IN FOR INTERVIEW, AT WHICH TIME CONSULAR OFFICER WILL ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING FORM 257. HOPEFULLY, CHINESE WILL NOT OBSTRUCT MR. AND MRS. CHANG'S APPEARANCE AT USLO (BUT WILL QUERY CHANGS LATER ABOUT FORM USED IN USLO INTERVIEW) AND THIS CHAPTER CAN BE CLOSED. CHANG JUI IS NORMALLY UNPLEASANT AND CONTENTIOUS IN HIS DEALINGS WITH USLO AND HIS CONDUCT OF THIS MEETING DOES LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT MFA MAY RAISE ISSUE AGAIN.

6. ASSUMING THAT NO PROBLEM ARISES IN INTERVIEW WITH CHANGS, WE WILL THEN ASK THAT REENTRY PERMITS BE EXTENDED TO SIX MONTHS BEYOND END OF INTENDED STAY IN US.
THAYER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING01701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-0265
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750979/aaaacsho.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PEKING 1457, 75 PEKING 1432, 75 STATE 204088
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>; RELEASED <03 Jul 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINESE COMPLAINT ABOUT FORM FS-257A
TAGS: CVIS, CH, (CHANG, YL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006